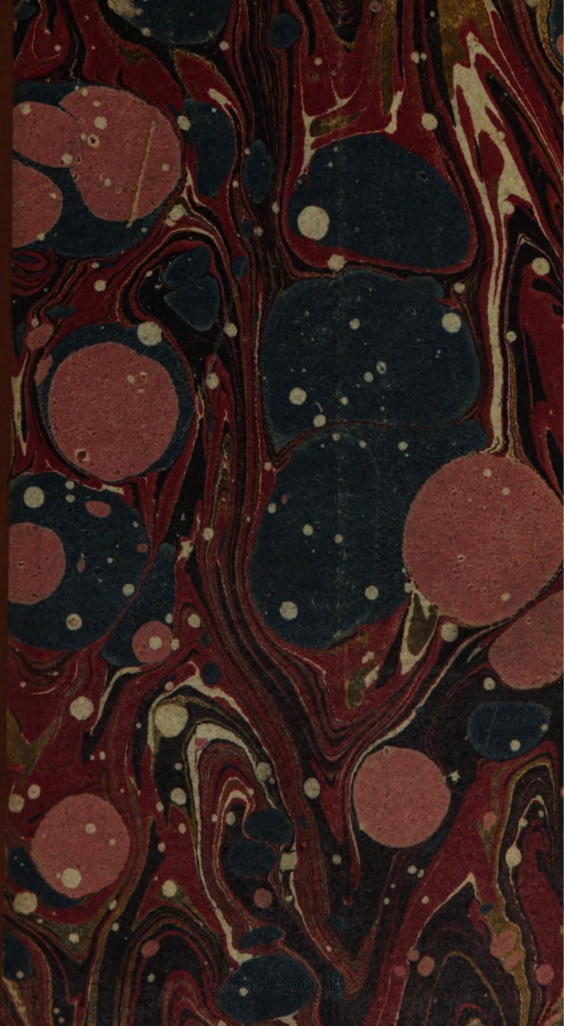

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Advent

Meditations and Prayers.



"SEVEN TIMES A DAY DO I PRAISE THEE."—PS. CXIX. 164.

"WATCH AND PRAY."

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First Hour.

THE day of the LORD will come as a thief in the night ; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat : the earth also and the works that are therein, shall be burned up.—2 Pet. iii. 10.

I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and lo ! there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood ; and the stars of Heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the Heaven departed as a scroll, when it is rolled together, and every mountain and every island were moved out of their places.—Rev. vi. 12, &c.

As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.—S. Matt. xxiv. 27.

The day of wrath, that dreadful day,
When man to judgment wakes from clay !
O what shall be the sinner's stay !
How shall he meet that dreadful day !

When shrivelling like a parched scroll,
 The flaming heavens together roll ;
 When louder yet and yet more dread,
 Swells the high trump that wakes the dead !

O in that day, that dreadful day,
 When heaven and earth shall pass away ;
 Be Thou, O LORD ! the sinner's stay,
 Help me to meet that dreadful day.

O GOD ! Whose blessed SON was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of GOD, and heirs of eternal life : grant us, we beseech Thee, that having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as He is pure, that when He shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto Him in His eternal and glorious kingdom, where with Thee, O FATHER ! and Thee, O HOLY GHOST ! He liveth and reigneth ever one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*





Second Hour.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the Angels of Heaven, but My FATHER only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.—S. Matt. xxiv. 36, &c.

At midnight there was a cry made, Behold the Bridegroom cometh ! And they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut.

Even thus amid thy pride and luxury,
O earth ! shall that last coming burst on thee,
That secret coming of the Son of Man ;
When all the cherub throning clouds shall shine,
Irradiate with His bright advancing sign,
When that great Husbandman shall wave His fan,

Sweeping like chaff thy wealth and pomp away :
 Still to the noontide of that nightless day,
 Shalt thou thy wonted dissolute course maintain ;
 Along the busy mart and crowded street,
 The buyer and the seller still shall meet,
 And marriage feasts begin their jocund strain,
 Still to the pouring out the cup of woe,
 Till earth, a drunkard reeling to and fro,
 And mountains molten by His burning feet,
 And heaven His presence own, all red with furnace heat.

The chariot ! the chariot ! its wheels roll on fire,
 As the LORD cometh down in the pomp of His ire ;
 Self-moving, it drives on its pathway of cloud,
 And the Heavens with the burden of Godhead are bowed.

The glory ! the glory ! by myriads are poured,
 The hosts of the Angels that wait on their LORD ;
 And the glorified Saints and the Martyrs are there,
 And all who the palm-wreath of victory wear.

The trumpet ! the trumpet ! the dead have all heard,
 Lo ! the depths of the stone-cover'd charnels are stirred ;
 From the sea, from the land, from the south, from the
 north,
 The vast generations of man are come forth.

The judgment ! the judgment ! the thrones are all set,
 Where the Lamb and the white-vested elders are met ;
 All flesh is at once in the sight of the LORD,
 And the doom of eternity hangs on His word.

Oh mercy ! Oh mercy ! look down from above,
 Creator, on us Thy sad children with love ;
 When beneath to their darkness the wicked are driven,
 May our sanctified souls find a mansion in Heaven.

When in unspeakable glory Thou dost come dreadfully to judge the whole world, vouchsafe, O gracious REDEEMER, that I Thy servant may in the clouds meet Thee cheerfully. Place me by Thy merciful arm before Thy seat of judgment, and let not the hand of the prince of this world snatch me from Thy presence. Mercy, Blessed JESUS. *Amen.*





Third Hour.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of Heaven shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His Angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the one end of Heaven to the other.—S. Matt. xxiv. 29, &c.

Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him.—Rev. i. 7.

I know that my REDEEMER liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God!—Job xix. 25, &c.

The Angel comes, he comes to reap
The harvest of the LORD;
O'er all the earth with fatal sweep,
He waves his flaming sword!

O King of mercy ! grant us power
 Thy fiery wrath to flee !
 In Thy destroying Angel's hour,
 O gather us to Thee !

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge!

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

O Thou that art the Light Eternal and the Sun of Righteousness, evermore arising and never going down, giving life and gladness unto all things, mercifully vouchsafe to shine upon me, and cast Thy bright beams upon the black mists of my sins and errors, for Thy only merits Who art my SAVIOUR and my LORD. *Amen.*

Blessed SAVIOUR, cleanse us that we may hear Thy voice. Touch our hearts with fire from Thine altar, that we may love Thy blest appearing. Open our eyes, that through the veil that shrouds us, we may discern Thee, and like Thy first disciples, reach Thee on the shore.



Fourth Hour.

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool. His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him : thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The Judgment was set and the books were opened. —Dan. vii. 9, &c.

And I saw a great white throne and Him that sat upon it, from Whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God ; and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life ; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them. And they were judged every man according to their works. —Rev. xx. 11, &c.

O may I always ready stand,
 With my lamp burning in my hand ;
 May I in sight of Heaven rejoice,
 Whene'er I hear the Bridegroom's voice.

Shine on me, LORD, new life impart,
 Fresh ardours kindle in my heart ;
 My soul O lighten and inflame,
 With thought and love of Thy great Name !

In the hour of death and in the day of judgment, good LORD, deliver me !

Try me, O GOD ! and seek the ground of my heart ; prove me, and examine my thoughts ; look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

LORD, when Thou arisest to shake terribly the earth, may I be found in Thee !

I am not mine, but Thine. Therefore claim me as Thy right, keep me as Thy charge, love me as Thy child !





Fifth Hour.

When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy Angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say to them on His right hand, Come ye blessed of My FATHER, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink, I was a stranger, and ye took Me in, naked and ye clothed Me, I was sick, and ye visited Me, I was in prison, and ye came unto Me.

Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, When saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee, or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? when saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in, or naked, and clothed Thee, or when saw we Thee sick and in prison, and came unto Thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have

done it unto one of the least of these My brethren ye have done it unto Me.

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me no meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and ye took Me not in, I was naked, and ye clothed Me not, sick and in prison, and ye visited Me not.

Then shall they also answer Him, saying, LORD, when saw we Thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee?

Then shall He answer them saying, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not unto Me.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.—S. Matt. xxv. 31, &c.

LORD, who may abide the day of Thy coming?
And who shall stand when Thou appearest?

Plead Thou, oh! plead my cause!
Each self-excusing plea
My trembling soul withdraws,
And flees to Thee!
Where Justice rears her throne,
Ah! who save Thee alone
May stand, Thou spotless One,
Plead Thou my cause!

Plead Thou my cause above,
 Plead Thine within my breast,
 Till there Thy gentle Dove
 Shall build her nest !
 Thou know'st this will how frail,
 Thou know'st, though language fail,
 My soul's mysterious tale—
 Plead Thou my cause !

Bemired with sins, and naked of good deeds, I cry vehemently in spirit ; cast not me a wretch away from Thy face ; place me not on the left hand, Who with Thy hands didst fashion me ; but give rest to my soul for Thy great mercies' sake, O LORD !

LORD, take from me all affection to sin or vanity. Let not my affections dwell below, but soar upwards to the element of love, to the seat of GOD, to the regions of glory, to the inheritance of JESUS. O come, LORD JESUS, come quickly ! my heart is desirous of Thy presence, and thirsty of Thy grace, and would fain entertain Thee, not as a guest, but as an inhabitant, as the LORD of all my faculties. Enter in, and take possession, and dwell with me for ever, that I may dwell with Thee, in the light of Thy countenance, and in Thy glory ! *Amen.*





Sixth Hour.

GOD shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.—Eccles. xii. 14.

We must all appear before the judgment-seat of **CHRIST**; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.—2 Cor. v. 10.

The righteous **GOD** trieth the heart and reins.—Ps. vii. 10.

The **LORD** seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but **GOD** looketh on the heart.—1 Sam. xvi. 7.

That which is highly esteemed among men, is abomination in the sight of **GOD**.—S. Luke xvi. 15.

Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.—S. Matt. xii. 36.

LORD, come away,

Why dost Thou stay ?

Thy road is ready, and Thy paths made straight,
With longing expectation wait

The consecration of Thy beauteous feet.

Ride on triumphantly ; behold we lay
 Our lusts and proud wills in Thy way ;
 Hosanna ! welcome to our hearts !

Forgive me my sins, O LORD, forgive me the sins of my youth, and the sins of my age, the sins of my soul, and the sins of my body, my secret and my whispering sins, my presumptuous and my crying sins, the sins that I have done to please myself, and the sins that I have done to please others. Forgive me my wanton and idle sins. Forgive me my serious and deliberated sins. Forgive me those sins which I know, and those sins which I know not ; the sins which I have so long striven to hide from others that now I have even hid them from my own memory. Forgive them, O LORD, forgive them all, and of Thy great mercy let me be absolved from mine offences, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD.
Amen.

Go forth, O my soul, to meet Him that cometh unto thee, Who is the Stay, the whole Stay of all thy being. The water that is separated from the fountain vanisheth, the bough that is cut off from the tree withereth, the body from which the soul is gone dieth. Depart not, therefore, O my soul, from the Soul of thy soul, but embrace Him with all gladness !



Seventh Hour.

I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.—S. John xiv. 3.

Where the Carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.—S. Matt. xxiv. 28.

The LORD Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of GOD, and the dead in CHRIST shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air, and so shall we ever be with the LORD.—1 Thess. iv. 16, &c.

FATHER, I will that they also whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory.—S. John xvii. 24.

Behold, I come quickly! Even so. Amen.
Come, LORD JESUS!—Rev. xxii. 20.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life,
Such a Way as gives us breath,
Such a Truth as ends all strife,
Such a Life as killeth Death!

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart,
Such a Joy as none can move,
Such a Love as none can part,
Such a Heart as joys in love!

LORD, grant me continually to have a waking soul watching for the time when Thou shalt come. Let no vain or wandering fancy trouble me. Let my ghostly enemy have no power over me; but let my mind be set wholly on Thy Presence, to love and fear, and rest in Thee alone. *Amen.*

As the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after Thee, O GOD!

My soul is athirst for GOD, yea, even for the living GOD. When shall I come to appear before the Presence of GOD?

With Thee is the well of life. In Thy light let me see light!

Though I sleep, let my heart be waking!

LORD, make mine eyes look up to Thee, my soul be filled with Thee, my spirit ravished with Thy love!

Thither would I go where are the tabernacles of the righteous, where are the souls of the saints, the choir of Angels, the voices of Archangels. Thither would I go, where is the illumination of the HOLY GHOST, where the kingdom of CHRIST, where the never-ending glory and the blessed sight of the Eternal GOD the FATHER! There, O LORD, let my portion be!

Aus Deo.

